

Community Safety

Why is it important?

Community safety supports social interaction and economic growth. Safe environments reduce crime, improve quality of life, and promote community engagement.

What is the story in Yarra?

Yarra's inner-city location and renowned night-time economy draw people to the region, contributing to the vibrancy of the city, but also to safety issues, with incident rates that are higher than Victoria, but comparable to other inner-Melbourne areas with night-time economies. Nearly half of all residents do not feel safe in public areas at night. The areas with the lowest perception of safety are Richmond, Abbotsford, Cremorne and Burnley.

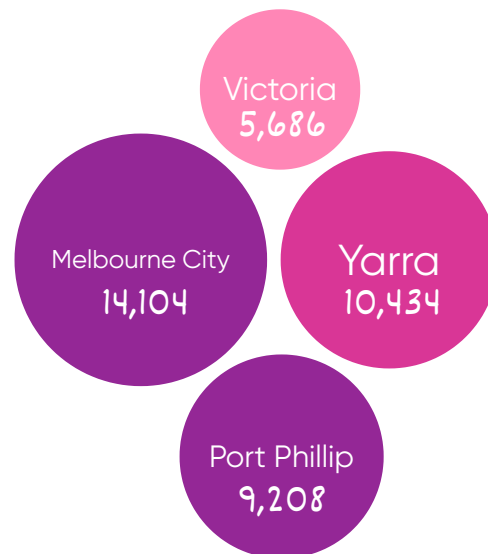
15% of Yarra residents **experienced discrimination**

72% of criminal incidents were **Property and Deception incidents**

There were proportionally more **Property and Deception incidents** in Yarra (72%) than in Victoria (60%), and fewer **Crimes against the Person** in Yarra (12%) than in Victoria (17%)

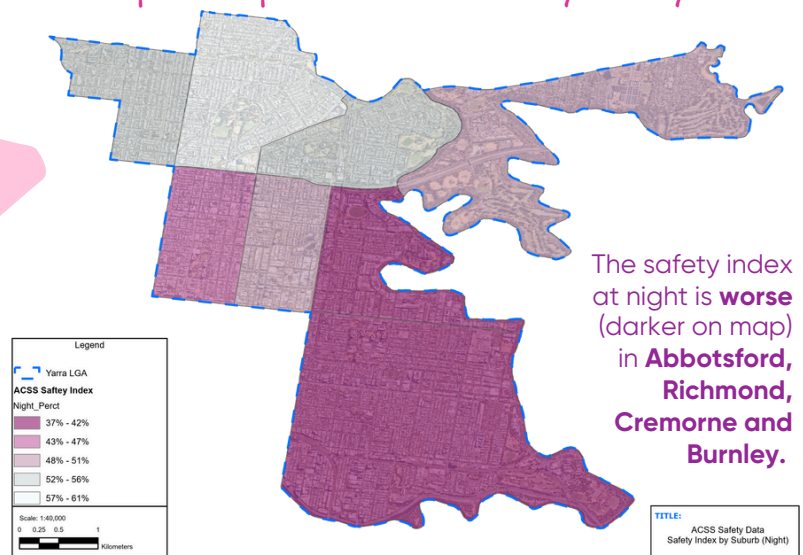
46% of Yarra residents **do not feel safe at night in public places**

Criminal incidents:



In 2024, Yarra had nearly twice as many **criminal incidents per 100,000 residents** than Victoria. But this was comparable to Port Phillip and Melbourne City

Map: Perceptions of community safety



The safety index at night is **worse** (darker on map) in **Abbotsford, Richmond, Cremorne and Burnley.**

Addressing community safety is particularly important for:

- people living in Abbotsford, Richmond, Cremorne and Burnley
- women
- young people (18-34 years)
- people with young children
- First Peoples
- people with disability

Alcohol and Drugs

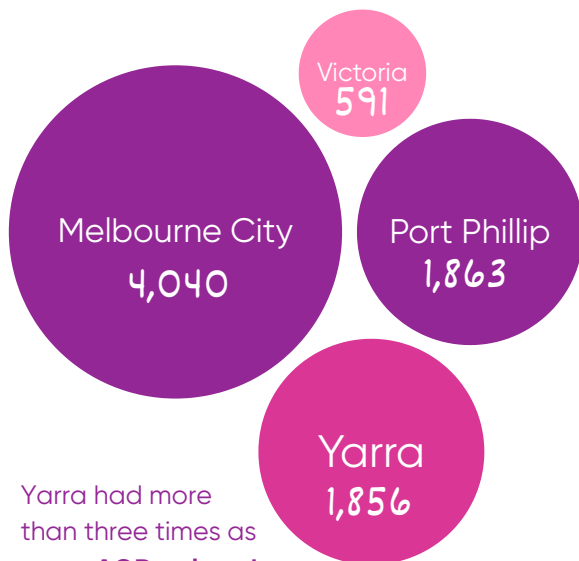
Why is it important?

Alcohol and other drugs (AOD) have significant health, social and economic impacts in communities, and are a major risk factor for preventable disease, illness and death.

What is the story in Yarra?

Alcohol outlets are a part of the tourism, social and cultural fabric of the community. However, there is a very high rate of risky drinking behaviour in Yarra, with 20% of residents at a lifetime risk of alcohol-related harm. There is also a high level of drug-related offenses in Yarra. In Yarra, there are high rates of AOD-related social harms and AOD-related health service use.

AOD related assaults:



Yarra had more than three times as many **AOD-related assaults** per 100,000 residents as Victoria, but **comparable rates to Port Phillip and Melbourne City**, which also have night time economies.

19% of Yarra residents engage in 'binge' drinking at least once a week

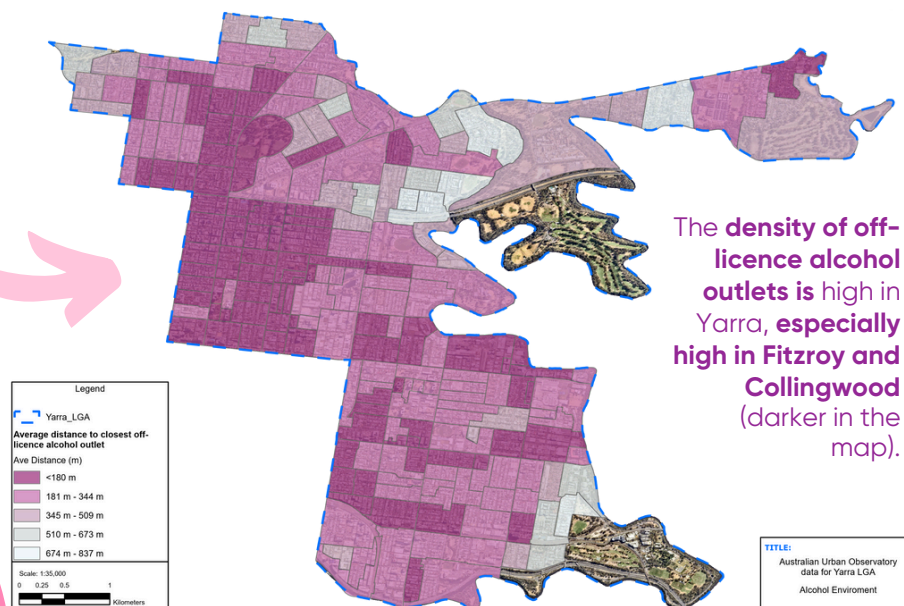


Yarra's rate of **AOD-related ambulance attendances** were lower than Melbourne City, and comparable to Port Phillip



The rate of **AOD-related ambulance attendances** is high, but there is a downward trend in Yarra in the last 3-4 years

Map: Density of off-licence alcohol outlets



The **density of off-licence alcohol outlets** is high in Yarra, **especially high in Fitzroy and Collingwood** (darker in the map).

Groups at higher risk of alcohol harm:

- Significantly more young people report binge drinking
- Significantly more men report daily drinking

Alcohol outlet density is related to greater alcohol harm, with Fitzroy, Collingwood and Carlton North having greater density.

Smoking Tobacco and Vaping

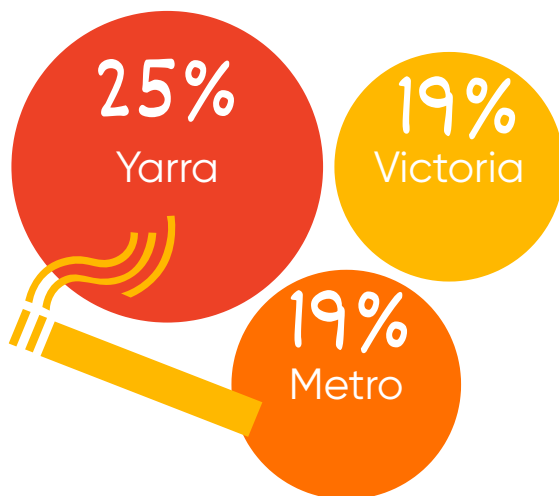
Why is it important?

Tobacco smoking is the leading risk factor contributing to disease burden and deaths in Australia. There is also evidence of negative health effects of vaping. Vaping is rapidly increasing in Australia with 20% of people aged 14 and over reporting having used e-cigarettes in 2023, up from 11% in 2019. This increase in the popularity of vaping coincides with an increase in tobacco smoking for the first time in more than a decade. The legislative landscape of vaping is changing rapidly in Australia.

What is the story in Yarra?

While Yarra has much higher rates of vaping than Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria, there are fewer daily tobacco smokers in Yarra compared with Victoria.

Any current vaping or smoking



Smoking or vaping is higher in Yarra (25%) compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria (19%)

Regular smoking

6% regularly smoke (all or most days) which is less than Victoria (10%). However, within Yarra this is higher for...

- ↑↑ people who are culturally and linguistically diverse (9%)
- people with a disability (7%)

↓ and lower for...

- women (3%)

Regular vaping

7% regularly vape (all or most days) which is more than Victoria (4.5%). However, within Yarra this is higher for...

- ↑↑ LGBTQIA+ (14%)
- people who are in the low income households (8%)

↓ and lower for...

- people who are culturally and linguistically diverse (2%)

There are no data within Yarra on people under 18 years, however vaping is a known issue for younger people

Managing smoking and vaping is particularly important for:

- younger people
- people in the LGBTQIA+ community
- culturally and/or linguistically diverse communities
- First Peoples

Active Community

Why is it important?

Active living is important for wellbeing and helps to reduce the risk of chronic diseases. Creating environments that promote physical activity for the community will support people's health and wellbeing. With active living, it is especially important to consider groups within the community who may have fewer opportunities to stay active.

What is the story in Yarra?

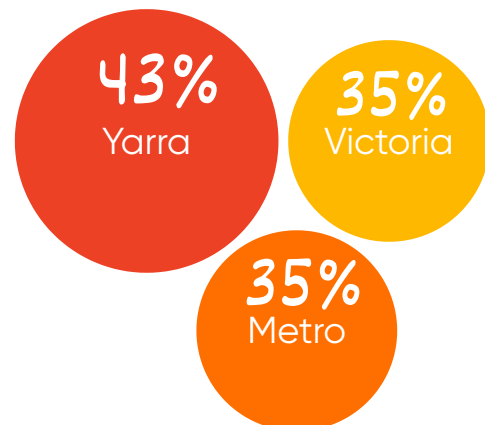
Yarra residents enjoy an active lifestyle with high proportions of people using active transport and meeting physical activity guidelines. However more residents in Yarra sit for at least 8 hours a day than in Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria, likely because of the high proportion of professional occupations. There are some priority groups who are less likely to engage in physical activity.

Meeting physical activity guidelines

39% of Yarra residents sit for at least 8 hours a day



77% of Yarra residents use active transport at least weekly



Yarra has **significantly more adults meeting guidelines**, compared to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria.

However, this is lower for:

- low-income households
- culturally and linguistically diverse communities
- people living with disability

Sufficient physical activity



*Estimate from Yarra Social Indicators Survey differs slightly to VPHS estimate (left)

No physical activity



Older people (13%) and people living with a disability were more likely to not engage in physical activity.

Supporting physical activity is particularly important for:

- people living with disability
- people aged over 55 years
- First Peoples
- people who are culturally and/or linguistically diverse
- people living in low-income households

Mental and Social Wellbeing

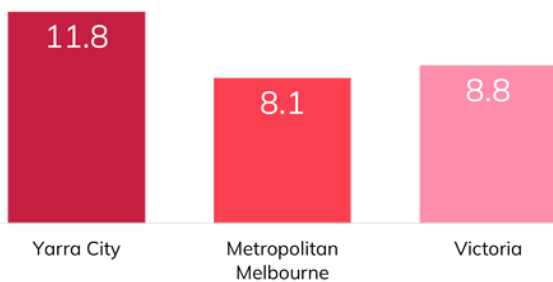
Why is it important?

Positive mental health can reduce the risk of developing some chronic diseases and tof misusing of alcohol and other substances. Social inclusion and connection can greatly impact how people feel about their lives and community as a whole. Community connection supports positive mental health and a sense of belonging.

What is the story in Yarra?

Yarra has a comparable rate of diagnosed mental illness compared with Victoria, however residents of Yarra seek support for mental health at a significantly higher rate. Within some priority groups in Yarra, there are more people struggling with their mental and social wellbeing.

Mental health condition, %



Mental health conditions in Yarra (11.8%) are higher than Metropolitan Melbourne (8.1%) and Victoria (8.8%)



31% of people, sought help for a mental health related problem

This was significantly higher than metropolitan Melbourne (20%)



15% of Yarra residents experienced discrimination

This is similar to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria.

22% report **poor/fair mental health**

26% report **experiencing loneliness**

These experiences are more commonly reported by people who:

- live with disability
- live in low-income households
- are in the LGBTQIA+ community



self-rated poor/fair mental health



Living with a disability



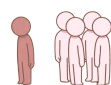
Low-income households



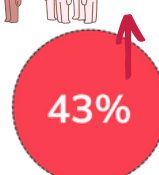
Culturally and linguistically diverse



LGBTQIA+ community



People experiencing loneliness



Living with a disability



Low-income households



Culturally and linguistically diverse



LGBTQIA+ community

Supporting mental and social wellbeing is particularly important for:

- people living with disability
- people living in a low-income household
- people in the LGBTQIA+ community
- First Peoples

Early Years Development

Why is it important?

The foundations of adult health are laid during the early childhood period (0–5 years). Physical, social, emotional and language/cognition development in early childhood strongly influence school success, economic participation, social citizenship and health later in life.

What is the story in Yarra?

4% of Yarra residents were 0–4 years of age in 2021, which represents 3,636 people. This is lower than the proportion of 0–4 year olds living in Metropolitan Melbourne (5.9%) and Victoria (5.8%) in 2021. The foundational importance of the first five years of life makes it an important population group to understand.

92%

of Yarra children are fully immunised at 5 years of age, which is comparable with the Victorian average of 93%

Developmental vulnerability in Children

Proportion of children who are '**developmentally vulnerable**' overall (on two or more domains)

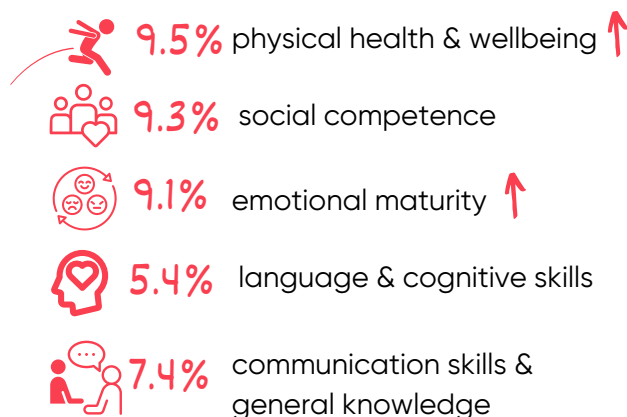
20%
Victoria

11%
Yarra

↓ Overall, fewer children in Yarra were developmentally vulnerable (11%), compared to the Victorian average (20%)

↑ However, when considering specific areas, some domains of developmental vulnerability were higher in Yarra

Proportion of children in Yarra who were '**developmentally vulnerable**' by domain:



For the domains of **physical health and wellbeing** and **emotional maturity**, Yarra had a **higher proportion of 'developmentally vulnerable'** children than Victoria ↑

Addressing early years development is particularly important for:

- people living in Richmond, Fitzroy and Abbotsford
- the physical health and wellbeing domain
- the emotional maturity domain

The **suburbs** with higher proportions of children who were '**developmentally vulnerable**' overall, compared to the Yarra average were:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------|---|
| • Richmond/ Burnley | 16.3% | ↑ |
| • Fitzroy | 15.4% | |
| • Abbotsford | 16.1% | |

Food Security and Food Environments

Why is it important?

Access to adequate and nutritious food is a basic human right. Irregular access to safe, nutritionally adequate, culturally acceptable food from non-emergency sources is known as 'food insecurity'. Food insecurity impacts on physical, mental and social wellbeing. People can experience food insecurity over longer periods or temporarily.

What is the story in Yarra?

Yarra residents has a comparable rate of food insecurity to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria. Yarra residents enjoy a close proximity to healthy food outlets, which is comparable to other Victorian Metropolitan local governments.

Experienced food insecurity

9%

of Yarra residents have run out of food because they could not afford or access it.

This is similar to Metropolitan Melbourne (7.9%) and Victoria (8%)



Some are more likely to experience food insecurity

- People living with disability (22%)
- People with low income (23%)
- People aged 18-34 years (12%)
- Public renters (30%)

Worried about food insecurity

8%

of Yarra residents are worried about running out of food.

This is similar to Metropolitan Melbourne (8.3%) and Victoria (9.7%)

Proximity to healthy food and fast food outlets

Yarra has **better proximity to healthy food outlets than to fast food outlets**, which is comparable to other Metropolitan local governments.

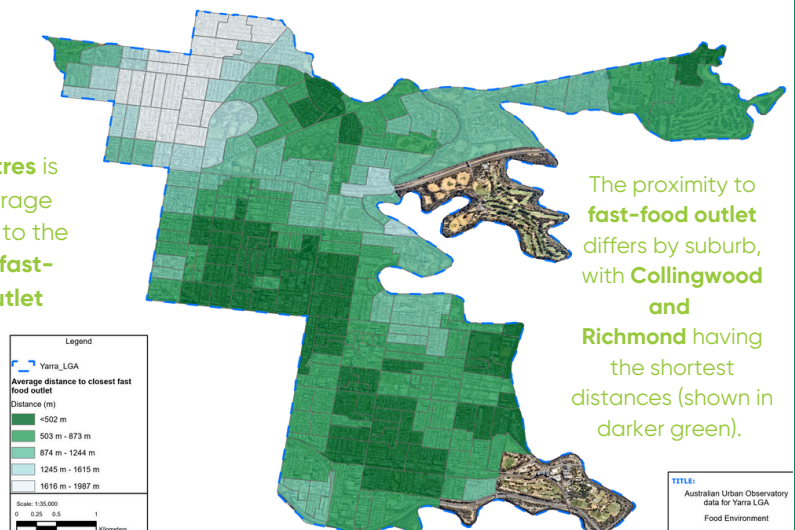


498 metres is the average distance to the closest **healthy food outlet**



808 metres is the average distance to the closest **fast-food outlet**

Map: Proximity to fast food outlets



No data was available on the affordability of food across Yarra, which is an important consideration for food security.

Addressing food security is particularly important for:

- people living with disability
- people with low income
- people aged 18-34 years
- people who are public renters
- First Peoples

Family and Gendered Violence

Why is it important?

Family, domestic and sexual violence is a major health and welfare issue in Australia. It occurs across all socioeconomic and demographic groups, but predominantly affects women and children. These types of violence have a serious impact on individuals, families and communities and can inflict physical injury, psychological trauma and emotional pain, effects that can be long-lasting and affect future generations.

What is the story in Yarra?

In Yarra, the rate of reported family incidents has remained stable over the last five years, and is comparable to the Victoria, however the rate of incidents related to alcohol consumption is higher.

In 2024, there were 1,111 family incidents per 100,000 people in Yarra, which is comparable to Victoria (1,378)



There were 320 family incidents per 100,000 people in Yarra that were **definitely or probably attributed to alcohol consumption**

which is higher than the rate for Metropolitan Melbourne (105) and Victoria (137)



26% of family incidents in Yarra involved children or young people as other parties



72% of affected family members in family incidents in Yarra were female, which is line with the 74% seen across Victoria

Focusing on family and domestic violence is particularly important for:

- people living with disability
- people in the LGBTQIA+ community
- people who are public renters

12% of Yarra residents **reported experiencing some form of domestic and family violence** related to drugs or alcohol

This rate was significantly worse for...

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| • people who are public renters | 30% |
| • people living with disabilities | 17% |
| • people in the LGBTQIA+ community | 18% |

Climate Resilience

Why is it important?

The earth is rapidly warming as a result of increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This climate crisis will impact community health through factors like worsening of air quality, changes in the spread of infectious diseases, and risks to drinking water quality and the increasing prevalence of extreme temperatures.

What is the story in Yarra?

There are some suburbs in Yarra that are at an increased of heat vulnerability, partially because of a lack of tree coverage. Yarra's yearly average air quality meets the National Standard for air quality, and is on par with Victoria.

18% is Yarra's canopy tree coverage which has remained steady since 2016 (17%)



Tree coverage is lower in:

- Collingwood (10%)
- Cremorne (10%)

Fitzroy, Collingwood and **Richmond** had hotter temperatures, which corresponds with lower tree coverage.



18% of the time, Yarra's air quality was defined as 'poor'

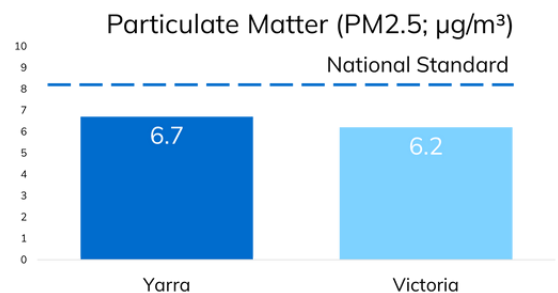


9.3% of Yarra residents have **asthma**, higher than Metropolitan Melbourne (7.9%)



41% of Yarra residents experience **respiratory issues or allergies** due to air pollution, pollen or allergens

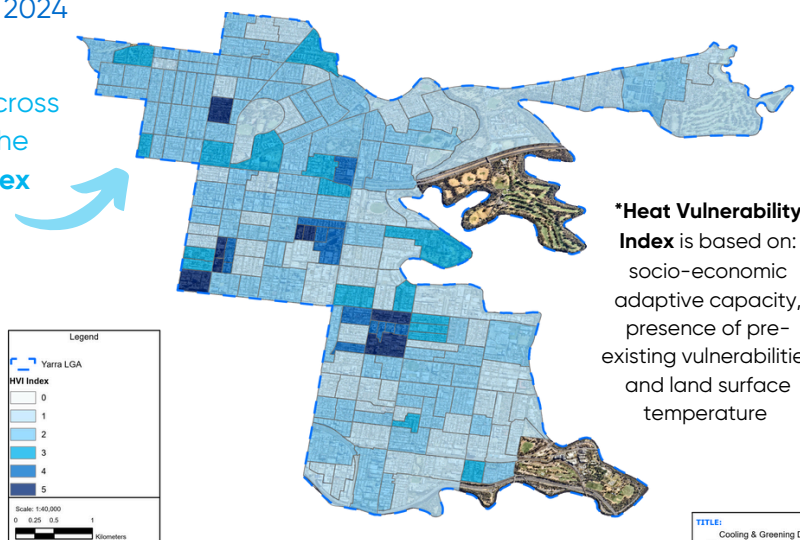
Yearly Average Air Quality



Yarra's **highest summer temperature** in 2023 was 41.3°C, and 39.7°C in 2024

Pockets of **high heat vulnerability** are visible across the municipality using the **Health Vulnerability Index**

Map: Heat vulnerability index*



***Heat Vulnerability Index** is based on: socio-economic adaptive capacity, presence of pre-existing vulnerabilities and land surface temperature

TITLE:
Cooling & Greening Data
Heat Vulnerability Index (2018)

Addressing heat vulnerability is particularly important for:

- Older people
- People with chronic health conditions
- Lower income households
- People living in poorer-quality housing
- People experiencing homelessness

Healthy Housing

Why is it important?

To maintain good health, people need to live in healthy and safe environments. Factors like homelessness, housing stress, overcrowding, indoor air quality, and exposure to indoor extremes of temperature can impact on people's mental and physical health. Evidence supports a direct association between poor-quality housing and health outcomes such as respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease and poor mental health.

What is the story in Yarra?

The dominant housing across Yarra is 'medium density', with an average of 14,109 dwellings per 1,600 metres, more than double the Victorian average of 6,396 dwellings within 1,600 metres. In Yarra, half of all households (51%) are renting, which is higher than Metropolitan Melbourne (29%), and can be an insecure tenure type. Furthermore, 8.1% of households rent social housing, which is higher than Metropolitan Melbourne (2.3%) and Victoria (2.5%).

51% of households are **renting**, which is higher than Metropolitan Melbourne (29%)

8% of households are **renting social housing**, which is higher than Metropolitan Melbourne (2.3%)

6.4% of Yarra residents live in an **overcrowded residence** (need one or more bedrooms)

19% of Yarra residents are in **housing affordability stress** (spending >30% of income on mortgage or rent)

47% of Yarra residents could **NOT afford to heat or cool their home** whenever needed

This rate was significantly worse for:

- people aged 18-34 years (59%)
- low income households (64%)
- people in the LGBTQIA+ community (64%)

 **65%**

Yarra residents are able to keep their home **adequately cool in Summer**

 **61%**

Yarra residents are able to keep their home **adequately warm in Winter**

Supporting healthy housing is particularly important for:

- low income households
- young people aged 18-34 years
- people in the LGBTQIA+ community
- First Peoples



728

people were recorded as **experiencing homelessness** in Yarra in 2021.

Homelessness is often hidden or unidentified, meaning the actual figures are likely to be considerably higher.

Homelessness can be considered a crucial and life-threatening condition